

LETTER TO FAMILY

Cut here and paste onto school letterhead before making copies.

SCIENCE NEWS

Dear Family,

Our class is beginning a scientific study of plants and animals. We will be investigating several ways to propagate new plants, including growing plants from seed (wheat, oat, ryegrass, and alfalfa, a legume); bulbs (onions and garlic); stems (white potatoes and cuttings from various plants); and roots (carrots and radishes). The scientific thinking processes children will be using in their investigations include observing structures of plants; communicating discoveries orally, in writing, and through drawing; comparing the development of plants over time; and organizing their findings in order to draw conclusions about how different plants reproduce. We will be making a terrarium and comparing the needs of plants and animals. We will be looking at structures of different plants and animals and studying how those features help the plants and animals live in different environments. In addition, we will be going outdoors to investigate the diversity of plants and animals in our schoolyard. I hope you will encourage your child to share his or her growing knowledge of plants and animals at home, and perhaps engage in a few plant-growing activities at home as well.

If your child has specific plant or animal allergies, please let me know so I can plan accordingly.

We will root cuttings in a couple of weeks. If you have one or more plants that you could donate to the science program at that time, I would appreciate it. I could use Swedish ivy, English ivy, coleus, spearmint, or *Tradescantia zebrina* plants.

We're looking forward to lots of fun and lots of learning as we explore a world full of plants and animals! You can get more information on this module by going to www.FOSSweb.com.

Sincerely,

